PRESS RELEASE
The Cleveland Museum of Art
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1981 MAY SHOW OPENS MAY 6

The Cleveland Museum of Art's 62nd annual May Show, a juried exhibition of works by artists and craftsmen of Ohio's Western Reserve, opens at the Museum on May 6, remaining on view through June 7, 1981.

On exhibit in the 1981 May Show are 242 works by 197 artists; they were selected from 2,413 entries submitted by 1,332 artists. Eight artists won awards; works by twenty-four others were cited for special mention by show jurors.

Vivien Abrams, a native of Cleveland now working in New York City, is the recipient of the $1000 award for painting. Her prize-winning entry, Uncropping, is a four-piece geometric composition painted in acrylic on wood whose strong color and formal organization sustain the attention of the viewer. Abrams has exhibited in many local shows and has received special mentions for paintings and graphics in previous May Shows.

The $1000 award for sculpture went to Gary Spinosa for his monumental entry Tower, a superbly crafted, many-tiered wooden structure with apertures in which one glimpses fantastic ceramic beasts. Spinosa, a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art now working in Homerville, Ohio, shows his works nationally and internationally. He has exhibited in the May Show since 1971, receiving special mentions for sculpture in 1975, 1976, and 1977.

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For the fifth consecutive year, the $1000 award in graphics was split between two artists. Moe Brooker, associate professor of painting and drawing at the Cleveland Institute of Art, received $500 for a brilliantly colored abstract chalk drawing, Doingwhatyalikethemost. Brooker, whose paintings and graphics have been shown in three previous May Shows, has exhibited widely, especially in his native Philadelphia.

The other half of the graphics prize was awarded to Cleveland photographer Shelley Bachman for a skillful black and white photographic print, Birthdaze Drawings #16, which juxtaposes the images of a tie and ribbon on a background of foil wrapping paper. Bachman holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in photography from Arizona State University.

This year three artists shared the $1000 award for crafts. Gretchen Goss, from Sydney, Ohio, who is working towards a master of fine arts degree at Kent State University's School of Art, was awarded $500 for two enameled copper plaques, entitled Six Strokes and Six Vertical Strokes. Each plaque is a complex, abstract composition with cut-out pieces of enameled copper mounted above an enameled field, below which the shapes of the cut-out sections are repeated in a champlevé technique.

Curtis and Suzan Benzle, former Clevelanders now working in Columbus, received $500 for One O'Clock Jump and Synthetic Blues, a pair of translucent porcelain bowls with irregular edges and colorful patterns on a soft white ground. Curtis Benzle, who exhibited two porcelain pieces in the 1979 May Show, and Suzan Benzle, who exhibited a fiber piece in last year's show, have been collaborating to produce works in porcelain for the last several years. Both hold master of fine arts degrees from Northern Illinois University. They have exhibited widely and have won a number of awards.

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Kent artist Ed Miller was awarded the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship for two meticulously designed and worked objects: a sterling silver and mohawkite Pin and a silver, ivory, and scrimshaw Pendant. His jewelry has been seen in a number of previous May Shows, receiving special mentions in 1976, 1977, and 1979.

Twenty-nine other works by twenty-four artists were cited for special mention. In paintings, seven special mentions went to works by Richard Andres, Edwin Mieczkowski, Mary Dice Pettit, Christopher Sheban, Ellen Stavitsky, and Gretchen Oldfather Troibner (for two entries). In sculpture four special mentions were given to works by Paula Dubaniewicz, Thomas Golya, and Ann Treadwell (both entries). There were seven special mentions in graphics for works by Michael Henry Adams (two entries), David Alan Bair, Marvin Jones, John Pearson, Judith Pittenger-Meyer, and T. P. Speer. In photography, six works--by Mark Andres, Barbara Canfield, Garie W. Crawford, Dolores Glover Kaufman, and David Robinson--were cited. Six artists received special mentions for crafts: Terrence Dike and Gary Schlappal, each for two entries, T. P. Speer, and Brenda Roddy Rogers.

Works in the May Show were selected by members of the Museum's professional staff and two outside jurors. Jane Livingston, associate director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, served on the jury for painting, sculpture, graphics, and photography. Lloyd Herman, director of the Renwick Gallery in Washington, assisted in the judging of crafts. As he has done for the past eight years, Tom Hinson, associate curator of modern art at The Cleveland Museum of Art, served as coordinator of the May Show.

A great variety of styles and techniques can be seen in the works in the 1981 May Show. Indeed, observes Edward B. Henning, chief curator of modern art at the Cleveland Museum, this show is more varied than usual. It is also a balanced show; no single category of work predominates.

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The May Show can be viewed everyday but Monday. The May Show galleries will be open Friday evenings until 10 p.m. during the length of the exhibition. All galleries in the Museum are open on Wednesday evenings until 10 p.m.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, and Sunday, May 10, and, and again on Wednesday, June 3, and Sunday, June 7. A special talk for the hearing impaired is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2.

The 1981 May Show is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.